

## Message Text

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73

ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 EA-11 IO-12 ADP-00 PCH-05 SSO-00

NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

SY-10 USSS-00 EB-11 DOTE-00 FAA-00 CAB-09 JUSE-00

COME-00 AID-20 TRSE-00 OMB-01 RSR-01 /182 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ P: JEBRIGGS

4/16/73 EXT 20448

APPROVED BY NEA/ P: JEBRIGGS

S/ PRS: CBRAV ( INFO)

NEA: SBUTCHER

AF/ P: GAFRIEDMAN

IO/ P: FBLACHLY

NEA/ EGY: MSTERNER

H: KFOLGER ( INFO)

EUR/ P: ESAVAGE

EA/ P: AHROSEN ( INF)

----- 083706

O 162012 Z APR 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL HONG KONG IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT CAIRO

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

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AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
USMISSION NATO  
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM  
USINT BAGHDAD BY POUCH  
AMEMBASSY SANAA BY POUCH

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HONG KONG FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY SISCO

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING IS PARTIAL  
EXCERPT FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING  
APRIL 16, 1973:

QUOTE: MR. BRAY: THERE IS A WIRE SERVICE STORY WHICH  
MOVED JUST BEFORE THE BRIEFING WHICH SUGGESTS THAT SOME KIND  
OF SHOT WAS FIRED THROUGH A WINDOW AT THE RESIDENCE OF THE  
NEW ZEALAND DCM, I BELIEVE. BUT I JUST DON'T HAVE ANY  
DETAILS. I WILL TRY TO GET THEM FOR YOU.

Q. HE HAS ALLEGED THAT THE BLACK SEPTEMBER WAS RESPONSIBLE  
FOR IT. I JUST WANT TO ASK YOU A GENERAL QUESTION IN THAT  
REGARD: IF YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION ON THE PRESENCE OR  
STRENGTH OF BLACK SEPTEMBER IN THE UNITED STATES, PARTICULARLY  
IN WASHINGTON.

A. NOTHING TO SHARE WITH YOU AT THIS POINT.

Q. CAN YOU GIVE US AN ASSESSMENT TODAY AS TO WHAT THE  
SITUATION NOW IS IN THE MIDDLE EAST AS IT CONCERNS US?

A. WELL, IF YOU HAVE IN MIND THIS PROBLEM OF THE MEDIA TO  
WHICH WE ADDRESSED OURSELVES IN A VARIETY OF WAYS LAST  
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WEEK WE WOULD CHARACTERIZE THE SITUATION, THE PICTURE,

THROUGH THE WEEKEND AS BEING MIXED. I AM TOLD THAT A NUMBER OF MEDIA IN THE AREA DID IN FACT CARRY OUR DENIALS FOLLOWING SECRETARY ROGERS' MEETING WITH THE CHIEFS OF ARAB MISSIONS HERE. ON THE OTHER HAND, THERE IS STILL EVIDENCE THAT WHAT WE CALLED THE BIG LIE LAST WEEK CONTINUES TO BE RUN THROUGH THE AREA. I DON'T HAVE THE DETAILS HERE.

Q. HAS THERE BEEN A REPEAT OF SOVIET MEDIA CARRYING THIS BIG LIE SINCE THE INCIDENT LAST WEEKEND?

A. NOT TO MY KNOWLEDGE. AS YOU KNOW, ASSISTANT SECRETARY STOESSEL CONVEYED OUR DISPLEASURE TO THE SOVIET EMBASSY ON FRIDAY AND PROTESTED THE BROADCAST FROM MOSCOW.

I MIGHT ALSO NOTE THAT ROGER DAVIES PROTESTED TO THE YUGOSLAV EMBASSY AT TANJUG STORY WHICH HAD SUGGESTED THAT WE WERE INVOLVED IN THE BEIRUT RAID, AND ALSO THAT GEORGE C. MOORE, WHO YOU REMEMBER WAS MURDERED IN KHARTOUM, HAD BEEN A CIA AGENT.

Q. IN THAT CONNECTION THE SECRETARY IS MEETING, I BELIEVE, THIS AFTERNOON WITH A GROUP CALLED THE ARAB- AMERICAN ASSOCIATION, OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT. DO YOU KNOW WHAT THE PURPOSE OF THAT MEETING IS? I ASSUME IT WAS SOUGHT BY THEM?

A. YOU ASSUME CORRECTLY. THE GROUP IS WHAT I TAKE TO BE AN UMBRELLA ORGANIZATION, REPRESENTING SEVERAL OTHER GROUPS OF AMERICANS OF ARAB DESCENT. THOSE WHO ARE CALLING ON THE SECRETARY THIS AFTERNOON ARE HEADED BY DR. PETER TANOUS, WHO IS PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ARAB- AMERICANS. AND THEY ARE COMING IN AT THEIR REQUEST TO DISCUSS RECENT MATTERS IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

MR. BRAY: I HAD SOME QUESTIONS OVER THE WEEKEND AND THIS MORNING WITH RESPECT TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING IN NEW YORK WHICH AMBASSADOR SCALI WILL BE ADDRESSING, I ASSUME, IN THE COURSE OF THE NEXT COMING WHILE. BUT I MIGHT NOTE FOR YOU, BY WAY OF A GENERAL OBSERVATION, OUR HOPE THAT THE SECURITY COUNCIL WILL LOOK CAREFULLY AT UNCLASSIFIED

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WHAT I WOULD CALL THE PROBLEM OF THE CYCLE OF VIOLENCE IN THE AREA, AND THAT THE SECURITY COUNCIL WOULD FIND IT POSSIBLE TO TAKE A BALANCED APPROACH TO THE PROBLEM. FOR OUR PART, THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WOULD CERTAINLY BE

RECEPTIVE TO ANY INITIATIVES IN THE COUNCIL WHICH WE COULD  
CONSIDER CONSTRUCTIVE AND TRULY BALANCED.

Q. WILL THE U. S. BE MAKING AN INITIATIVE OF ITS OWN IN  
THIS REGARD?

A. WELL, I THINK IN THE FIRST INSTANCE IT MIGHT BE LEFT  
TO THOSE WHO HAVE SOUGHT THE MEETING TO UNDERTAKE  
INITIATIVES, IF ANY. END QUOTE. ROGERS

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\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* UNCLASSIFIED

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CAIRO  
DHAHRAN  
HONG KONG  
JERUSALEM  
JIDDA

KUWAIT  
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TEHRAN  
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